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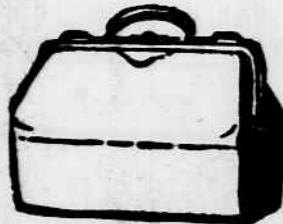
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Open Saturday Evening

THOMAS EDWARD LAWRENCE
FREED ARABIA DURING WAR

Oxford Graduate, Little Known, Became Remarkable Figure of World War.

Young Archeologist Unified Scattered Nomadic Tribes Against Turk Oppressors.

BY LOWELL THOMAS.

(By arrangement with Asia, the American magazine on the Orient.)

During the last five years of epic events, among others, two remarkable figures have appeared. The dashing adventures and anecdotes of their careers will furnish golden themes to the writers of the future, as the lives of Ulysses, King Arthur and Richard the Lion-Hearted to the poets, troubadours and chroniclers of other days. One is a massive, towering, square-jawed, six-foot-tall, smashing British cavalry leader, Field Marshal Lord Allenby, commander of the twentieth century crusaders, who has gained world-fame because of his exploit in driving the Turks from the Holy Land, downing the crescent, and raising the cross over Jerusalem. The other is the undersized, beardless youth, whom I first saw absorbed in a technical treatise on the cuneiform inscriptions discovered on the bricks of ancient Babylon. The spectacular achievements of Thomas Edward Lawrence, the young Oxford graduate, are still unknown except to a handful of his associates. Yet quietly, without any theatrical headlines or fanfare of trumpets, he brought the disunited nomadic tribes of Arabia into a unified campaign against their Turkish oppressors—a difficult and splendid stroke of policy. He calmed, statesmen and sultans had been unable to accomplish in centuries of effort. Lawrence placed himself at the head of the Arabian army of the King of the Hedjaz, and drove the Turks from Arabia. Allenby liberated Palestine, the holy land of Jews and Christians; Lawrence freed Arabia, the holy land of millions of Mohammedans.

Story of the Mysterious Lawrence.

I had heard of the mysterious Lawrence many times during the months I was in Palestine with Gen. Allenby. On my way from Italy to Egypt, one of the officers on the cruiser told me that an Englishman was supposed to be in command of an army of wild Bedouins somewhere in the trackless deserts of the far-off land of "The Arabian Nights." This was the first rumor which reached me of Lawrence's exploits. In Egypt and Palestine I heard fantastic tales of his exploits. And always his name was mentioned in solemn, hushed tones, because at this time the Arabian affair was supposed to be a secret. Lawrence became to me a new oriental legend of the war in the making and until one day when I met him in the palace of the Governor of Jerusalem I had been unable to picture him as a real person. Cairo, Jerusalem, Damascus, Baghdad—in fact, all the cities of the near east are so full of color and romance that the mere mention of them is sufficient to stimulate the imagination of matter-of-fact westerners, who are suddenly spirited away on the magic carpet of memory to scenes familiar through the fairy story books of childhood. So I had come to the conclusion that Lawrence was the product only of western imagination overreached by exuberant contact with the east. But the myth turned out to be very much of a reality.

The five-foot-three Englishman, who stood before me in Jerusalem, garbed in a brown camel-hair gown, over which hung his kuffeh, or headgear, of heavy white brocade silk, colored with green embroidery, underneath a snow-white robe tied with a gold-embroidered belt, in which he carried the curved sword of a prince of Mecca, all set off regally by the agal, the headband of heavy cords of silver and gold thread, which he wrapped with silver and gold threads, held the kuffeh in place—was the real ruler of Arabia. He was the commander-in-chief of an army of more than 20,000 Bedouins mounted on racing camels and fleet Arabian horses. He was the terror of the Turks. Destiny had never played a stranger prank than when it selected as the man to play the major role in the liberation of Arabia an Oxford graduate whose life ambition was to dig in the ruins of antiquity and uncover and study long-forgotten cities.

Born to Lloyd George's County. The Lawrence family originally came from Galway, Ireland, several hundred years ago. This partly accounts for Lawrence's rather remarkable powers of physical endurance, because the people of Galway are among the hardiest of their race. Col. Thomas E. Lawrence was born in Carnarvon, the same county in Wales that Lloyd George comes from, and the prime minister is one of the former's warmest friends and admirers. In fact, it is a case of mutual admiration. Mr. Lloyd George kept in close touch with Lawrence's work in the desert, and consulted with him constantly during the sessions of the peace conference in Paris, which Lawrence attended as the head of the Arabian delegation.

All his life Col. Lawrence has been a student of peoples both of the present and of the past, but so far as I know, he has never had any intimate friends and has preferred to stand on one side and watch others. He has a very sympathetic nature, and would rather help a down-trodden people to assert their rights than to amass all the wealth in the world. He has unusual ability when it comes to mastering languages, among them being English, French, Italian, Spanish, German, Greek, Latin, Dutch, Norwegian and Arabic.

Student of Military Writers.

Lawrence has always been a keen student of military writers. His favorite work, until he took part in the Arabian campaign, was Marshal Foch's "Principe de Guerre," although he once told me in Arabia that his study of Caesar and Xenophon had been of more value to him in his desert campaign, because in his irregular war against the Turks he had to adopt directly opposite tactics from those of the great French Marshal. He has also been a keen student of medieval French literature, and is particularly fond of Gothic art. In 1908, before he finished his university work, he urged his parents to allow him to go to the near east. His family gave him permission and \$200, fully expecting that he would spend it in making a flying Cook's tour of Asia Minor, Syria and Palestine, and return home quite ready to settle down and forget the orient. As soon as he arrived in Syria he adopted a native costume and tramped barefoot over thousands of miles of unknown desert country, living with the various nomadic tribes. When he finally returned to England to complete his studies, after an absence of two years, he still had \$100 left of the original sum which his family had given him, and he merely remained at home long enough to finish his studies, that he might return to the near east better equipped in his speciality.

Joined Expedition in 1909.

Several years before the war, in 1908, he joined the Oxford expedition and uncovered part of Carchemish, the ancient capital of the Hittite empire.

One day in the Arabian desert, not far from the enchanted rose-red city of Petra, Lawrence remarked to me that archeological work in Egypt had never appealed to him, and that he would never die there at any price, because most of the important work had already been done, and because Egyptologists of today spend most of their time trying to find out when the third whisker was painted on the scarab.

With many other scientists and scholars, he was called to Cairo by the British military authorities in August, 1914. At that time he was twenty-six years old. He had already spent seven years wandering through Turkey, Syria, Palestine, Arabia,



COL. THOMAS E. LAWRENCE, Prince of Mecca and "uncrowned King of Arabia."

Mesopotamia and Persia, and had acquired a more intimate knowledge of the peoples of Aleppo, Beirut, Jerusalem, Damascus and Baghdad than almost any other European.

Activities During War.

From 1914 to 1916 young Lawrence kept the war office informed regarding the movements of the various units of the Turkish army. He had native agents acting as spies under his orders, and the British not only sent supplies to the Arabs, but gave them important military encouragement; they sent them a number of their most brilliant young officers to co-operate with the Arabs and offer them suggestions. Lawrence was among these and within a few months he made himself "Uncrowned King of Arabia."

In Arabia he was never known to wear anything except the native costume. Occasionally, when he went to Cairo or Jerusalem to make a report to Gen. Allenby, he wore the uniform of a British officer, but even after he attained the rank of colonel he preferred the uniform of second lieutenant, usually without insignia of any kind. I have seen him in the streets of Cairo without belt, and with unpollished boots—negligence of a high treason in the British army. I have never seen him stand to attention, and doubt if he would have done so in the presence of all the allied generals. He has never saluted any one senior to him, even including his commander-in-chief, but he would always acknowledge salutes of soldiers. He especially disliked the title of colonel. From general to private he was known as plain "Lawrence." Many times, when we were trekking across the desert he told me that the thorough dislike of war and everything that savored of the military, and that as soon as the war was over he intended to go back to his old job of archeology.

Little did Lawrence dream when he was studying Hittite ruins that it was his destiny to build a new empire instead of piecing together, for a scholar, the fragments of a dead-and-buried kingdom. Yet he gained the confidence of the sheik of Mecca (King Hussein of the Medias) to such an extent that he was permitted to sign the king's name to state papers. Out of gratitude for his service to his country, the Arab leaders made him an emir and a prince of Mecca, an honor unparalleled in Arabian history. King Hussein in Arabian history.

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sein himself presented his British commander with the curved gold sword worn only by direct descendants of Mohammed.

Auda Abu Tayl, the Bedouin Robin Hood, always sincere in his judgments of people, once said to me: "I have never seen a man who has such a great capacity for work as Lawrence. He is one of the finest camel riders that ever trooked across the desert. A Bedouin can pay no finer compliment."

The Germans and Turks were not long in discovering that there was a mysterious power giving inspiration to the Arabs. Through their spies they learned that Lawrence was the guiding spirit of the whole Arabian revolution. They offered a reward of \$50,000 for him, dead or alive. But the Bedouins would not have betrayed their leader for all the gold in the fabled mines of Solomon.

(In the next installment Mr. Lowell

Thomas will describe how Lawrence captured Akaba, the ancient seaport of King Solomon, and a battle in which the young archeologist and his daring lieutenant, Auda Abu Tayl, with a handful of followers mounted on racing camels, charged a picked Turkish regiment and cut it to pieces. In this charge Lawrence's camel was shot from under him and his followers rode right over him, and seven bullets passed through Auda Abu Tayl's robe.)

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